

Almost half of that deficit is caused by tax breaks for the very rich.

What happens?

We raid Social Security, creating an insolvency for baby boomers about to enter retirement age.

We underfund education. We make a great noise about passing the Leave No Child Behind Act. What do we do in this budget? We underfund education by 16 percent. That is not right.

We talk about prescription drugs, but this budget underfunds prescription drugs for seniors. This is an unfair budget. It raids the Social Security trust fund, and it should be rejected.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY OF CESAR CHAVEZ, AN AMERICAN HERO

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the end of March, we approach the birthday of Cesar Chavez, a positive role model for the Latino community, a hero. Caesar Chavez touched the lives of millions with his nonviolent struggle for justice, education, and equality. He was a beacon of hope.

But Cesar Chavez views the challenges he faced as a motivation to help farmworkers whose suffering he shared. In 1962, Caesar Chavez founded the National Farmworkers Association, the predecessor to the United Farmworkers of America.

He organized farmworkers to campaign for fair working conditions, reasonable wages, and decent housing and health conditions. He sacrificed himself for human rights and for dignity. He left a legacy for each and every one of us, and for generations to come.

He has received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Peace Prize, and was nominated for the Nobel Prize.

No one better symbolizes Latino empowerment than does Caesar Chavez. He is a symbol of hope, and we will never forget his words. The challenge of life, justice, and equality will ever ring in our lives: Si, se puede; yes, we can. We should honor his birthday by celebrating it, and I am hopeful we will pass that legislation.

CONGRATULATIONS ON A GREAT SEASON TO DIVISION I STATE BOYS' BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS, THE CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL PANTHERS

(Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the city of Springfield, Massachusetts, is known worldwide as the birthplace of basketball. It is also where the new Basketball Hall of Fame is being constructed on the historic banks of the Connecticut River. And

today, it is the home of the Division I State basketball champions, the Cathedral High School Panthers.

On Saturday night in the Worcester Centrum, Cathedral defeated Brookline by a score of 75 to 71 to capture their first State crown. Led by coach Gene Eggleston, the Panthers are now the third team from western Massachusetts to earn this coveted State athletics title.

In addition, the boys' basketball team has now won four of the six last western Massachusetts championships.

Mr. Speaker, their accomplishments speak for themselves. As a former teacher at Cathedral, I know the importance the school places on education and athletics, and the great job that the Sisters of St. Joseph do. They should take great pride in the character demonstrated by the boys' basketball team on and off the court this weekend when they earned the right to be called the very best team in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Congratulations on a great season to the Cathedral High School Boys' Basketball State Champions.

ACKNOWLEDGING WOMEN FROM THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS FOR THEIR ACTIVISM

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in acknowledging that the Bush budget does nothing for Americans and it does nothing for women.

This month is a month when we commemorate the history of women in America, and I would like to acknowledge, from the 18th Congressional District, women who are part of the winds of political change and activism: Christie Adair, Irma Leroy, Ninfia Lorenzo, Kathy Whitmire, Eleanor Tinsley, Helen Huey, Christian Hartung, Madge Bush, Esther Williams, Beverly Clark, Judge Betty Brock Bell, Sylvia Garcia, Carol Alvarado, Carol Galloway, Ada Edwards, and Lisa Berry Dockery, all women who realize that we must stand up and be counted for what is right in our community, and stand up and be counted to make sure that for all of the spoils of America, all the issues that deal with a good quality of life, women of this community and women that I have just listed have all been advocates for helping those in their communities.

They are our heroes. They are part of America's history. They are part of the history of women in America.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3924, FREEDOM TO TELECOMMUTE ACT OF 2002

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 373 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 373

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3924) to authorize telecommuting for Federal contractors. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Government Reform. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA). The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us today is an open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 3924, the Freedom to Telecommute Act of 2002.

The rule allows the chairman of the Committee of the whole to accord priority in recognition to those Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Finally, the rule provides for 1 motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today that the House is considered the Freedom to Telecommute Act. Currently, a Federal agency may refuse a bid proposal from a potential contractor that utilizes telecommuting in its work force. This legislation would prohibit agencies from continuing this practice. That a potential contractor would allow its employees to telecommute when appropriate would not disqualify or reduce the chances of that company winning a Federal contract.

The bill also requires that the GAO, General Accounting Office, make a report to Congress within 1 year of enactment on the compliance by agencies with telecommuting regulations.

In the past 25 years, telecommuting has become an increasingly attractive option for employees in the workplace, and, I would also add, a commonsense